

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK"  
LAHATTE

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Charles "Chuck" LaHatte, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Chuck LaHatte is a dedicated volunteer with the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, driving a DAV van to help disabled veterans get to and from Fort Howard for their medical treatment. A veteran himself, Chuck truly cares about the disabled veterans he assists on a weekly basis. He serves as an encouraging example in their lives.

Volunteering about 70 hours a month with disabled veterans, Chuck helps teach other DAV volunteers how to interact with the disabled veterans and how best to serve them. Chuck realizes the importance of the service he provides for disabled veterans, and goes above and beyond the call of duty in order to give the disabled veterans he transports the best possible service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Chuck LaHatte. He is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through his ongoing efforts, he has helped dozens of veterans to receive the medical care they need. Chuck has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LINWARD "LIN"  
APPLING

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the career of Lin Appling, upon his retirement from the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Mr. Appling received a B.A. from Coker College and an M.A. from Wichita State University, while serving in the U.S. Army. Mr. Appling's distinguished Army service has been recognized with the bestowing of the U.S. Army Legion of Merit Award as well as a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

Since 1993, Mr. Appling has served the Missouri State government in a number of capacities, culminating with his appointment in 2004 to the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Mr. Appling has been an active member of his community through his work with the Capital City Boys & Girls Club. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at an early age, Mr. Appling has been instrumental in helping others reach their goals.

I am certain that Members of the House will join me in thanking Lin Appling for his service to his country and to the State of Missouri.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA  
HONORAIR VETERANS

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On April 12, 2008, a group of 96 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC, on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT  
OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-  
DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern over the recent crackdown in Tibet by the Chinese government. I strongly believe that America must be a country that speaks out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted for their religious or political beliefs.

Every person on earth has certain inalienable rights. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, Ronald Reagan noted that the U.S. Constitution has been described "as a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind." America has a profound responsibility to keep this covenant and to stand up for freedom in the world's darkest corners.

China is a perfect example of a place where these rights are not being protected. The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing. It is more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to democratic values than ever before.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation reports that in 2007, 35 Roman Catholic bishops were in jail, under house arrest, or harassed and put under surveillance. In 2007, the Chinese government arrested 693 Christians that we know of. Renowned human rights advocate and Uyghur Muslim Rebiya Kadeer has watched from exile as the Chinese government arrests and beats her family members in her homeland. Since the crackdown on Falun Gong began in 1999, untold numbers of Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested, imprisoned and tortured.

The Tibetans have suffered terribly over the years at the hands of the Chinese government. Tibet is gradually, but brutally, being

subsumed by China. Inch by inch, this region, its people, its culture, its religion, even its language is growing fainter and fainter and could one day disappear as the Chinese government persists in trying to liquidate Tibetan culture and presence in China.

The reports and images of this most recent crackdown in Tibet are deeply disturbing. Tibetan Buddhist monks and Tibetan youth have been beaten down in the street and rounded up in house-to-house searches for protesting China's rule of the Tibet region. Scores of Tibetans are believed to have been killed in the violence, and hundreds of Tibetans have been arrested by Chinese police for participating in protests.

Given this legacy of violence and discrimination by the Chinese government, I'm not surprised it would crack down with such brutal force against these Tibetan protestors. My outrage at what China is doing in Tibet led me to visit Tibet in 1997, and I have seen first-hand the repression the Tibetans live under.

And despite all of its abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympics. The Olympic Games are an event designed to lift up "the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles," according to its own charter.

Does China's behavior sound like a "good example" to the rest of the world? Or that it is reflecting "fundamental ethical principles" that all nations should aspire to? It is because of China's actions that I cannot support the President or other senior U.S. officials attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

While I have strenuously urged the President not to attend the Olympics, I know I cannot stop the President from going. But I am offering language in the 2008 emergency supplemental appropriations bill to prohibit U.S. government officials and employees from attending the Beijing Olympics on the taxpayers' dime.

The political prisoners in China and Chinese dissidents around the world will be deeply demoralized by what the Chinese government will surely portray as symbolic support for its regime if senior American officials attend the games.

Some say that the protection of human rights is secondary to attaining economic power and wealth. We must reject that notion. China poses a threat not only to its own citizens, but to the entire world.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RAY  
CHAMBERS FOR WINNING THE  
BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BAS-  
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ray Chambers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ray Chambers was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ray Chambers always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional